

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, CU

SUBJ: MEXICO AND CUBA TRADE POLICY

REF: STATE 023488 AND STATE 923942

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

1. I DISCUSSED MATTERS RAISED IN BOTH REFTELS WITH RABASA, AS ECHEVERRIA IS IN NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY. RABASA AGREED THAT WE SHOULD SEE HIM TOGETHER ON HIS RETURN PERHAPS EARLY NEXT WEEK.

2. IN THE MEANTIME RABASA'S OWN REACTIONS WERE SOMEWHAT RESTRAINED, THOUGH BASICALLY COOPERATIVE. HE AGREES WITH YOUR POINT RE "HASTY" ACTION ON CUBA BUT STRESSED THAT ECHEVERRIA IS AN IMPATIENT BOSS. THUS HE HOPES THAT MEETINGS MIGHT BE ARRANGED ON THE OCCASION OF THE OASGA WHICH WOULD HERMIT (A) A CONSENSUS ON CHANGING THE VOTING PATTERN OF THE RIO TREATY TO LIFT SANCTIONS AND (B) A DECISION ON DEFINITE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN DOING SO.

3. WITH REGARD TO CUBA TRADE POLICY, RABASA STRESSED THAT HERE AGAIN SPEED WAS NECESSARYBN POINTING OUT THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN "REVIEWING" ALL THE ASPECTS OF THE CUBAN PROBLEM, INCLUDING TRADE, FOR SOME YEARS NOW. REGARDING OUR HOPE FOR COOPERATION WITHOUT PUBLICITY FROM MEXICO, HE SAID THIS WOULD DEPEND LARGELY ON ECHEVERRIA'S ATTITUDE AS SO MANY OTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTS OF MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVED.

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